

CUMORAH'S

Southern Messenger

VOL. 29

MARCH 1954

No. 3



PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

Mission Presidency Message

TALENTS—

By ELDER LOWELL D. WOOD

Under the glass cover on my desk is a card with the following inscription: "Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best."

I cannot help but gain a great amount of strength from these words. All members of the Church who are called to serve in any office, feel humbled, unworthy and overwhelmed at the responsibility which lies before them. This is as it should be, for when we accept a position in the Church we take upon ourselves the responsibility of representing God in our every thought, word and action. It is humbling to be accountable for the souls of those that we have been asked to teach, counsel and preside over. We of ourselves would fail, but with the guiding influence of the Spirit which is wrought in our behalf; by prayer and by enduring to the end, do we find the strength to carry on.

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought over five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliverdest unto me five talents: behold I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliverdest unto me two talents; behold, I have gained two other

The above mentioned quotation infers that we should, no matter what our qualifications might be, strive with all diligence to use what talents the Lord has blessed us with to further the work of His kingdom. I feel that all members of the Church should remember this whenever those in authority approach them in regards to fulfilling a position within the Branch, District or Mission. The Lord requires of us our best, and to Him it matters not where, but how we serve.

We should use our talents intelligently and whenever opportunities arise, let us accept these privileges willingly; not reject them because we feel we are not qualified. Remember: "And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God, he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; . . . (I Nephi 17:3.)

talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou has not strawed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

FOR UNTO EVERY ONE THAT HATH SHALL BE GIVEN, AND HE SHALL HAVE ABUNDANCE: BUT FROM HIM THAT HATH NOT SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY EVEN THAT WHICH HE HATH." (Matthew 25: 14-29.)

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Registered at the G.P.O. as a
Newspaper.

MARCH 1954

Editor: Leroy H. Duncan.

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Cover: President Joseph Fielding
Smith — President of the
Quorum of the Twelve.

Subscription rates: 5/- per year.
Overseas: \$1.

In case of change of address
notify mission office immediately.

The "C.S.M." is published
monthly in South Africa by the
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints.

Phone 6-3334.

"Cumorah," Main and Grove
Roads, Mowbray, C.P.
Union of South Africa.



HOWARD HUGHES PICKS MORMONS FOR EFFICIENCY

— New York—Film and aviation tycoon Howard Hughes has surrounded himself with "a group of young assistants, almost all of them Mormons," says the current issue of the Look Magazine.

An active Mormon, the Look article states, tends to be a man of integrity who devotes himself slavishly to his job. He neither drinks, smokes nor gambles. "This is exactly what Hughes requires amid the temptations of Las Vegas," Look continues. "These assistants work 24 hours a day, and if there were another hour they would be at work then."

There job is to do whatever Hughes tells them to do, however improbable the task may seem . . . "deliver flowers to a sick friend; reach by telephone someone who has not been heard from since 1936; see that some beautiful young lady has the best table at the liveliest local night club, and keep the wolves away."

These assistants keep contact between Hughes and the outside world, Look explains. If anyone wants to see Hughes, who is perhaps America's richest man, he talks first to an assistant. The assistant puts the matter before Hughes, and Hughes makes up his mind. If he is willing and not tied up, he will be on the phone in a matter of minutes."

LOS ANGELES TEMPLE —

Church News Section — Temple news of 1953 centred frequently about the Los Angeles Temple. Rapid pace in construction was set this year and the huge superstructure is completed. Work is now going forward on the tower

and the interior. As a fitting climax to the year's temple news, all of the General Authorities of the Church and their wives attended the cornerstone laying ceremonies in Los Angeles on Friday, December 11. President McKay officiated. President Stephen L. Richards laid the cornerstone and President J. Reuben Clarke Jr. gave the principal address. Ten thousand persons, the largest such Latter-day Saint assembly in California's history, witnessed the event.

MISSIONARIES IN COLOMBIA MUST CONFINE ACTIVITIES TO OWN CHAPEL —

Bogota, Colombia (UP)—The government has forbidden non-Catholics in Colombia—specifically Protestant missionaries — to engage in any religious activity outside the precincts of their own churches.

Interior Minister Lucio Pabon Nunez ordered provincial governors yesterday to protect the religious freedom of non-Catholics "provided their activities and worship take place in churches and chapels."

"Non-Catholic foreigners living in Colombia enjoy complete freedom of conscience . . ." Pabon's directive said, "(but) neither ministers, pastors, nor simple communicants may perform any religious activity or seek to propagate their faith outside premises reserved for worship."

Existing treaties guarantee the right of Protestant missionaries to live in Colombia, the interior minister said, but they may perform "public educational or missionary work" only for the children of non - Catholic foreigners.

Joseph Fielding Smith

PRESIDENT OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE

Excerpts taken from an article written by RICHARD L. EVANS in the Improvement Era in the September, 1951, issue.

On June 4, 1951, when the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon President Joseph Fielding Smith at Brigham Young University, this citation was read:

"Joseph Fielding Smith, a son and grandson of Prophets of God, himself a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, and an Apostle of Jesus Christ for over forty-one years. Known and honoured for his unbending devotion to the revealed word of God, he is also loved for his sportsmanship and skill in friendly games. Capable of vigorous criticism, he is also quick to extend counsel with others the most kindly of men.

"From his youth he has devoted himself to the preservation of history, the forthright enunciation of scriptural teachings, and the turning of the hearts of the children to their fathers. Under his hand the Historian's Office and the history of the Church have matured together, and a world-wide genealogical society has wrought miracles of research and systematic accomplishment. From his pen have come in steady progression seven books and nearly a score of illuminating pamphlets which touch vital religious matters with refreshing directness and vigour.

"As administrator of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, he assigns to none, tasks more arduous than those he takes upon himself. As Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Brigham Young University he has been its watchful critic and loyal friend and remains readily approachable notwithstanding incredibly heavy responsibilities. For thirty-four years a member of the Church Board of Education, he has been influential in shaping the policies and programmes of the Latter-day Saint Institutes and Seminaries and in directing the destiny of this University.

"His guiding hand has kept secure the integrity and scriptural soundness of unnumbered manuals and books written for use in religious instruction in the Church.

"Upon this man of spiritual scholarship, for his life of devotion to its production and to its dissemination, and for his constant en-

couragement of education as the search of eternal truth, the University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, honoris causa."

Thus briefly, and in a rather remarkable manner, was epitomized something of the character and accomplishment of the man who on April 9, 1951, was sustained by the general conference of the Church as President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, an office in which he had already acted since the death of President George F. Richards, because President McKay was otherwise occupied with his duties as a member of the First Presidency.

President Joseph Fielding Smith's career divides itself into many categories: as an earnest and active young man and missionary, as an author and editor, as a preacher of righteousness and defender of the faith, as a tireless traveller among the wards and stakes and missions of the Church, as a moving spirit behind genealogical and temple work, as a temple president and counsellor in the temple presidency, as a member of the administrative boards of educational institutions, as a member of various business boards, as chairman of the Church reading committee, as a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles for more than forty years (to which office he was ordained and set apart on April 7, 1910, at the age of thirty-three), and as a father and friend — and as a man.

... Joseph Fielding Smith's ancestors go back to the early American patriots of New England, and in his veins runs the blood of martyrs who died as a witness to the restoration. He is the grandson of Hyrum Smith who was shot by the side of his brother Joseph at Carthage Jail. He is the son of Joseph F. Smith, sixth President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, pre-eminent among preachers of righteousness.

... AS A MISSIONARY: President Smith was ordained an elder in 1897, and then 1899-1901, served as a seventy in the British Mission. He later returned to Great Britain and to Europe, in 1939, with his wife, Jessie Evans Smith, and directed the evacuation of the missionaries from European fields of labour in the early days of World War II, and returned to Salt Lake City in November, 1931, after successfully completing this critically

(Continued on page 42)

TESTIMONY

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles at April Conference 1951

I feel humble, and also I feel the loss of our beolved President, just as you who are assembled here feel that loss. With the help of the Lord, I shall bear my testimony. I am very grateful to the Lord for the knowledge that I have of the truth of this divine work. I was baptized when I was eight years old. It was impressed upon me at that time that through baptism I had received remission of my sins and stood pure, clean, before the Lord. I had a sister who was very kind, as all my sisters were, who impressed upon my mind the need of keeping myself unspotted from the world. Her teachings to me the day I was baptized have stayed with me all the days of my life, and I honour her memory.

I have a perfect knowledge of the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord raised him up and gave him revelation, commandment, opened the heavens to him, and called upon him to stand at the head of this glorious dispensation. I am just as satisfied in my mind that in his youth when he went out to pray he beheld the actual presence, stood in the actual presence, of God the Father and his son, Jesus Christ; in my mind there is no doubt: I know this to be true. I know that he received later the visitation from Moroni, the Aaronic Priesthood under the hands of John the Baptist, the Melchizadek Priesthood under the hands of Peter, James and John and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on the sixth day of April, 1830, by divine command. These things I know. The Lord has revealed them to me, and this knowledge I have had since the day I was baptized. I know that the power of the Almighty is guiding this people, that we are under covenant to keep his commandments, to walk in light and truth. It is my firm conviction that every member of this Church should be able to bear witness and declare by words of soberness that these things are true, that the Book of Mormon is true, that the revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith are true, that the destiny of this latter-day work is true, and, according to the revelations, must and will be fulfilled.

I believe that the coming of the Son of God is not far away, how far I do not know, but I do know that it is over one hundred years nearer than it was when Elijah the prophet came to the prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple on the third day of April, 1836. Elijah's words point to the fact that we are that much nearer. And this ancient prophet declared that by the restoration of those keys we should know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at our doors. I have opened these scriptures to the seventh chapter of Matthew, and I want to read the seventh and eighth verses:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

"For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matt. 7: 7-8.)

Is there any good reason why every living soul cannot know the truth and where it can be found? Is there any reason that any members of this Church can give why he does not know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of God, and that this is his work? If we lack that understanding, we have no one to blame but ourselves. I had perfect confidence in the sayings of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; and when he says, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth," I am just as sure that every member of this Church may know within himself or herself that God lives, Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that this is his work which he has established. We have no excuse whatever for not knowing and having the absolute faith and confidence in this restored gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our duty to know. In a revelation given to the Church many years ago, that is, in the days of the Prophet, he warned the members of the Church against false prophets, false spirits, against those who lie in wait to deceive. He gave us a key then by which we may know, but I repeat, this key, given by our Saviour in his Sermon on the Mount is just as true today as it was nearly two thousand years ago. It's

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difficult assignment. He has long been a member of the missionary committee of the Church and has officially visited many of the missions at home and abroad.

... **THE CHURCH HISTORIAN:** Brother Smith learned a love for Church history in the years of his youth, partly, no doubt, acquired from his father and his forebears who lived through so many of the scenes themselves. And when he returned from the British Mission in 1901, he accepted an assignment in the Church historian's office, which led to his being sustained in 1906 as assistant Church Historian. He was later named historian and recorder for the Church, in which position he still serves.

... **GENEALOGICAL AND TEMPLE WORK:** In 1907 President Smith was made a secretary and director of the Genealogical Society of Utah to which work and society, with its world-wide and ever-expanding and important activities, he has since been identified and energetically devoted. He is today the president of the Genealogical Society, and has been since 1934.

... **IN EDUCATION AND BUSINESS:** He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Brigham Young University since 1912 and has been a member of the Church Board of Education since 1917.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Beneficial Life Insurance Company, and of the Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company.

... **AS AUTHOR AND EDITOR:** Brother Smith organized the Genealogical and Historical Magazine and served as its editor. . . .

... He is chairman of the Church reading committee, and as such has read uncounted thousands of pages of manuscript for the auxiliaries, the priesthood, and for other organizations of the Church and for numerous individual authors. His hours at home, early and late, are spent with the hard labour of reading, appraising, criticising, and correcting manuscripts and proofs of proposed publications—an undertaking which he has indefatigably pursued.

Brother Smith is also a scripturist of unusual ability. . . .

... **HIS FAMILY:** In April, 1898, President Smith married Louise Emyla Shurtliff who was the mother of his two eldest daughters, Josephine and Julina. Following her death some ten years later, he married Ethel G. Reynolds who was the mother of his five

sons and of four of his daughters, and who died in 1937. He later married Jessie Ella Evans who has been the devoted companion of many of his travels during the past decade, the foster mother of his devoted family, and a gracious hostess in his home, and who is far and affectionately known for the sweetness of her singing.

... He loves life, and he has shown by his life that he loves truth, that he loves the Church, and that he loves his Father's children. And he is, in turn, not only admired and respected, but also loved for his sterling qualities of character, and for himself.

TESTIMONY (continued)

his word and can be accepted, can be proved today just as well as it could by his disciples as he spoke to them in this Sermon on the Mount. In interviewing missionaries I frequently ask them, nearly always do, if they have a testimony of the truth. Some of them say, "No, I do not. I think it is true, but I do not know, but I have the assurance that if I go on this mission I will learn that it is true. Down in their hearts they give an honest answer, but I think they know better than they say. However, it is the right of every baptized member in this Church to know for himself by the revelations of the Spirit of the Lord that all that I have said in regard to the establishment of this work is absolutely true. There is no reason in the world why any soul should not know where to find the truth. If he will only humble himself and seek in the spirit of humility and faith, going to the Lord just as the Prophet Joseph Smith went to the Lord to find the truth, he will find it. There's no doubt about it. There is no reason in the world, if men would only harken to the whisperings of the Spirit of the Lord and seek as he would have them seek for the knowledge and understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for them not to find it—no reason, except the hardness of their hearts and their love of the world. "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you." This is my testimony, I know it is true. I know that just as well as I know I stand here. The Lord has revealed it to me as he has to my brethren. The Lord bless you all, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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PRAYER

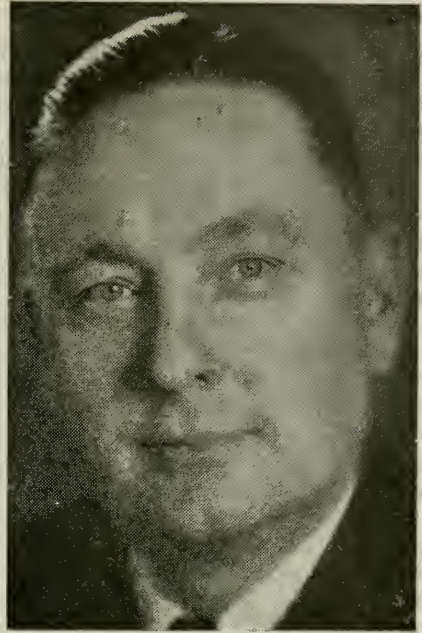
by Matthew Cowley — of the Council of Twelve.

Address delivered by Elder Matthew Cowley at the October Conference, 1953.

I trust, my brothers and sisters and friends, that I may be able to round out my thoughts in a fluency of expression that will carry conviction to all of you who are listening. To enable me to do that, I must plead for an interest in your faith and prayers. I believe it was William Jennings Bryan who once said that true eloquence is from the heart to the heart, and not from the mouth to the ear. By that standard of eloquence, if there is any eloquence in what I may say, I assure you that it will be the eloquence of the heart and not the eloquence of the properly chosen phrase or the well modulated voice.

I believe implicitly in the efficacy of prayer. Even as I stand before you I believe in the power of God to instil within my heart those thoughts which may be for your benefit, or for at least the benefit of some of you who may be praying to hear something which you need.

When President Richards was speaking so eloquently, especially about the sanctity of the home and the solidarity of the family, my mind raced back to my early childhood to a home which to me was sacred always, and to a family, the solidarity of which was preserved mostly by the family prayers. I thank God that in my infancy I knelt in a circle, in a humble home, night and morning with my parents, my brothers and sisters, and each in his turn invoked the blessings of God upon the family. I am grateful that I learned to pray in my infancy because I had only passed from infancy when I was called as a missionary to the uttermost bounds of the earth; I had just turned seventeen. I was called to faraway New Zealand, and in that mission I was assigned, without a companion, to one of the most humble places I have ever seen in all my life, one of the most poverty-stricken places, and in that little village, I had to pray. I was there but a few days when a woman came rushing to my room, and I have a picture of that room—no floor, just the ground with a woven mat and a blanket or two. She came rushing to that room and asked me to arise from my bed and hurry to her little hut, and when I arrived there, I found her companion lying on the ground, being con-



ELDER MATTHEW COWLEY.

sumed by the fire of typhoid fever. All I could do was pray; and I knelt beside that suffering native and I prayed to God, and opened up my heart to him; and I believe the channel was open; and then I placed my hands upon that good brother; and with the authority of the priesthood which I as a young boy held, I blessed him to be restored to health. The next morning the wife came again to my room and said, "If you have anywhere you desire to go, you are now free to go; my husband is up."

I remember that on another occasion I rode horseback all day long and far into the night to arrive at a native village on the sea coast of New Zealand, and when I arrived at a bay dividing the place where I had to stop and that little village, I made a fire so that the people across in the village would send a rowboat to get me, and when that boat arrived, I was taken across the bay, and I walked through that village, and in every home there were cases of typhoid fever. But I walked fearlessly, with my head erect, impelled by the priesthood of God which I held, and in each of those homes I left the blessings of heaven, and I laid my hands upon the sick. And then I had to go across the bay again and get on my horse and ride all night long to arrive at another native village where there was sickness.

Brothers and sisters, we are at our greatest, not only in the sight of God, but also in our

PRAYER—(continued)

own sight when we are upon our knees. We have heard tributes paid here to the leaders of this Church, these great men who stand before you every six months and manifest to you their great leadership, but never have they been raised to greater heights of leadership than when I have knelt with them in the temple of God and listened to each one open up his heart and appeal to God for his sustaining influence and power to enable Him to carry on as your servant in His divine ministry. How high, brothers and sisters, these men are raised when they are on their knees in a circle, claiming sanctuary from the outside world in God's holy temple.

President Richards mentioned about servicemen being missionaries. It brought to mind that statement which we have heard, that an army marches upon its stomach. I feel that the day is not far off when our armies will have to arise from their stomachs and march upon their knees. No iron curtain can ever be drawn between heaven and earth when the armies of men will march upon their knees. The great marches of this nation, the great marches of progress in the history of this country have been marches behind the leadership of men who went to their knees. Never was George Washington as great, in all his majestic power as a soldier, as when he was upon his knees at Valley Forge. Never was the great emancipator so great as when he was driven to his knees before Gettysburg. And the greatness of this nation, my brothers and sisters, has been because men who have been elected to high office in this country have never been too proud to go to their knees and invoke the power of heaven to sustain them in their great jobs and callings of leadership.

A prayer comes to my mind, and no more beautiful prayers were ever uttered than those uttered by our mothers. I recall the prayer of Hannah. You remember Hannah who wanted a child, and she went to the sanctuary to pray, but her prayer was not audible. Her lips moved, but she said nothing that could be heard, and Eli thought that she was intoxicated, and he reprimanded her, but then she convinced him that that which she was doing was not because of intoxication, but it was a prayer from her heart to God that she might bear a child. And how earnest she was in that prayer, so earnest, so sincere, that she said, "If God will give me this child, I will lend him to the Lord for this life." (See I Sam. 1:11.) How well the mothers know that

life is eternal. How well she knew that in lending this child to the Lord for this life, that beyond and down through the ages of eternity, he would be her child, and she would be his mother. The Bible is full of great prayers and the stories of great prayers.

The prophets have all been close to God when they have been upon their knees; and that which they have said in all of their greatness and power as they stood upon their feet was because they first had gone to their knees, and then when they arose, God spake through them. From Gethsemane to Calvary, Christ was a living prayer. He groaned within himself; he pleaded with his God; he had a wish that the cup might pass from him, but then he uttered those words which should attend every prayer offered up to heaven, "... not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42.) And then on Calvary, as he was hanging upon the cross, he uttered that prayer of prayers, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Ibid., 23:34.)

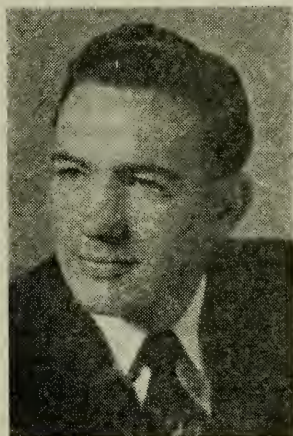
We have heard the prayer of the Prophets referred to this morning. Here was a young lad who believed in a promise that if any many lacked wisdom and would ask of God, it would be given to him; and in response to that injunction he took himself out into that grove, away from the superficial structures of men, and he didn't stand looking into heaven; he bowed upon the bended knees of his body, and he offered up his prayer to God his Father to bring clearness of vision to his mind, to divest from his mind the confusion which existed there pertaining to religion. How can people doubt that God heard that prayer? Anyone who would question that God heard the prayer of that boy must believe that the Father in heaven is cruel and shuts himself away from his children when they seek him. But he did hear that prayer, and as Elder Morris has mentioned, the light burst from heaven; down through the channel of light came the Father and the Son. Young people, if you prayed for your father to come in your hour of need, would he hide from you? Of course not. Neither will our Father who is in heaven hide from us who seek him out.

God grant that we may always have the spirit of prayer in our hearts.

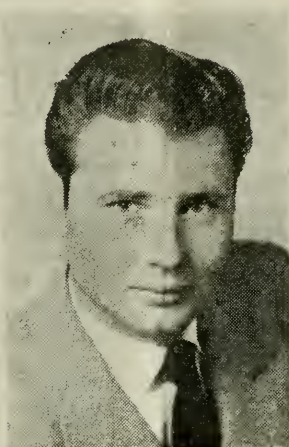
I love to sit among these great men, men who have a profound knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I will never have the knowledge of the principles of the gospel as profound as they have because I can't get myself

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DEPARTURES.....



ELDER BUNDY



ELDER OLSEN

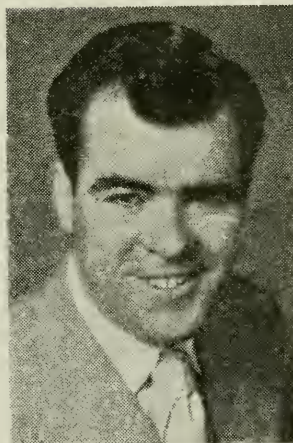


ELDER SHERMAN

ELDERS DANIEL A. BUNDY, BEN R. OLSEN, KENNETH A. SHERMAN, and GERALD W. WEINHEIMER, were honourably released from their missionary labours on February 19th, 1954. Elders Bundy, Olsen and Sherman embarked from Durban and sailed down the coast to Cape Town, where Elder Weinheimer joined them. The "Sterling Castle," with four 'good old elders' aboard, sailed from Table Bay on the 19th.

Elder Bundy has laboured in the Cape District; Bloemfontein, Orange Free State; Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia; and various centres within the Transvaal District. Elder Olsen has laboured in the Cape District; Benoni and various other places within the Transvaal District; Northern Rhodesia, where he served as Supervising Elder; and then back to Springs, Transvaal. Elder Sherman laboured in Durban, Natal; and was then assigned to the Transvaal District where he laboured in many of the areas within that District. Elder Weinheimer has laboured in the Transvaal District, Cape District, and was then assigned to the Northern Rhodesia District; and from there to Port Elizabeth where he served as Supervising Elder.

We were sorry to lose the services of these fine elders. They had endeared themselves



ELDER WEINHEIMER

to many people during their two years in South Africa, and will be missed by members, investigators and missionaries alike. May the Lord bless them throughout the remainder of their lives with health, strength and happiness and may their memories of South Africa always remain precious and dear to them.

ARRIVALS.....

ELDERS RULON R. FAIRBANKS, FLOYD J. FRANCIS, ORVILLE C. GRIGOR, and GLEN S. OSBORNE arrived aboard the "Arundel Castle" on February 18th, 1954. Elder Fairbanks comes from Raymond, Alberta, Canada; Elder Francis from Taber, Alberta, Canada; Elder Grigor from Barnwell, Alberta, Canada, and Elder Osborne from Spring City, Utah, United States.

Elder Fairbanks has been assigned to labour

in Bloemfontein, O.F.S., with Elder Dean Jarman; Elder Osborne also assigned to Bloemfontein to labour with Elder Orval J. Birks; Elder Francis assigned to labour in Pretoria, within the Transvaal District, with Elder Jerrold Warner, and Elder Grigor assigned to labour in East London with Elder Allen L. Caldwell as companion.

All of these young men are qualified for the work and are determined to do their best. May the Lord bless them with guidance and inspiration while they are engaged in this great missionary work.

STATISTICS

LYNETTE VAN ROOYEN, daughter of Ralph Henry and Esme Maureen (Gibbons) Van Rooyen, was blessed on February 7th, 1954, by Brother Alwin Hubert, at Cumorah.

KEITH ALLEN HARRIS, son of George Stanley and May Bond Harris was blessed on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Jack Evans Dahl, at Cumorah.

TREVOR HUME HARRIS, son of George Stanley and May Bond Harris, was blessed on February 7th, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton, at Cumorah.

STANLEY ERROL HARRIS, son of George Stanley and May Bond Harris, was blessed on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Lowell D. Wood, at Cumorah.

MICHAEL BARKER, son of Basil Stephen and Phyllis Margaret (Campbell) Barker, was blessed on February 14th, 1954, by Elder Donald M. Cole at Luanshya.

KATHLEEN MAUREEN HAMILTON, daughter of Edward William and Petronella Margrietha (McNamee) was blessed on February 21st, 1954, by Elder Lorin C. Godfrey, at East London.

BRIAN LAWRENCE HAMILTON, son of Edward William and Petronella Margrietha (McNamee) Hamilton, was blessed on February 21st, 1954, by Elder Allen L. Caldwell, at East London.

BAPTISMS

EDWARD WILLIAM HAMILTON was baptised on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Lorin C. Godfrey and was confirmed on the same day by Elder Allen L. Caldwell at East London.

PETRONELLA MARGRIETHA (MCNAMEE) HAMILTON was baptised on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Allen L. Caldwell and confirmed on the same day by Elder Lorin C. Godfrey at East London.

JOHANNA SCHENCK VAN NIEKERK was baptised on February 7th, 1954, by Elder John F. Grismore and was confirmed on the same day by Elder John F. Grismore at Durban.

GERHARDUS DIRK KOTZE was baptised on February 7th, 1954, by Elder O. Gordon Lyman and was confirmed on the same day by President Leroy H. Duncan, at Durban.

GERTRUIDA CORNELIA (FOUCHE) KOTZE was baptised on February 7th, 1954, by Elder O. Gordon Lyman and was confirmed on the same day by Elder Thomas E. Smith at Durban.

FRANK ANDREAS SANDERS son of Frank Octavious Forbes and Elizabetha Martina (Coetzer) Sanders, was baptised on December 20th, 1953, and confirmed on the same day by Elder George B. Everton at Pretoria.

MAY MILDRED SUSAN (BOND) HARRIS was baptised on February 14th, 1954, by Brother Alwin Hubert and confirmed on the same day by Elder Jack E. Dahl at Cumorah.

GUIDITTA FRANCES SMITH, daughter of Frank Alexander and Guiditta Mangiagalli Smith was baptised on February 14th, 1954, by Elder Lowell D. Wood and was confirmed on the same day by Elder Donald D. Salmon, at Cumorah.

PATRICIA DAPHNE HAMILTON daughter of Edward William and Petronella Margrietha (McNamee) Hamilton, was baptised on February 21st, 1954, by Elder Allen L. Caldwell and was confirmed on the same day by Elder Lorin C. Godfrey at East London.

ORDINATIONS

ALFRED JAMES CORRIGAN was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Allen L. Caldwell at East London.

HENRY JUSTUS VAN ROOYEN was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Michael J. Clarke at Durban.

WALTER POWRIE RANDALL was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by Elder John R. Kennard at Durban.

LEGRAND ALTON ROBERT DOLLER was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by Elder O. Gordon Lyman at Durban.

VICTOR HERBERT HENNING was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by Elder Thomas E. Smith at Durban.

RICHARD FAGAN was ordained a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan, at Durban.

GEORGE ARTHUR MORRISON was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 7th, 1954, by Elder John F. Grismore, at Durban.

PATRICK CYRIL EVERTON was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 4th, 1954, by Elder Gerald Weinheimer at Port Elizabeth.

LEONARD JOHN GRIFFITH was ordained an Elder in the Melchizadek Priesthood on February 14th, 1954, by Elder Michael J. Clarke at Port Elizabeth.

HAVELOCK TROLLIP was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 14th, 1954.

(Continued on page 47)

TRANSFERS

ELDER WINSTON M. FAUX was transferred from the Transvaal District to Durban, Natal to labour with Elder John F. Grismore, on February 1st, 1954.

ELDER MICHAEL J. CLARKE was transferred from the Transvaal District to Port Elizabeth to labour with Elder Gary Elliott, on February 5th, 1954.

ELDER LORIN C. GODFREY was transferred from East London, C.P. to Durban, Natal to labour with Elder John R. Kennard, on February 22nd, 1954.

APPOINTMENT

ELDER MICHAEL J. CLARKE was appointed Supervising Elder of the Port Elizabeth District on February 15th, 1954.

Attend Sacrament Meeting

SACRAMENT MEETING HELD MOST IMPORTANT — "It is expedient that the Church meet together often . . ." (D. & C. 20: 75). We meet in the house of God not as mere acquaintances, suspicious of one another, but as brethren in the brotherhood of Christ. We meet in the presence of him who has said, 'Love one another.' I look forward to the time when the membership of our quorums will approach their quorum meetings in anticipation of that brotherhood and experience that fraternal feeling which strengthens the soul and which inspires all to render greater service to their fellow men.

"I believe in meetings. I feel impressed to emphasize what the Lord has designated as the most important meeting in the Church and that is the sacrament meeting. In this very text which I have read, given to Joseph Smith by revelation, the Lord refers to that special meeting. 'It is expedient that the Church meet together often,' not for these general purposes to which I have made brief reference, but for the specific purpose of partaking of the sacrament. He has prescribed for us only a few set prayers, two of which are the blessing on the bread and water.

"Now, what does it signify? You will find first that the sacrament is a memorial of Christ's life and death.

"A second significance or a second principle associated with the administering of the sacrament is the bond of brotherhood.

"We meet in the brotherhood of Christ, all on the same level, each expressing confidence in the other and all in one another. Oh, the strength of brotherhood! Sin divides us. Righteousness unites. The partaking of the sacrament indicates also how communion with Christ may be secured. It cannot be obtained by Sunday righteousness and weekday indulgence. It implies that we will remember Christ always. If we show the Lord's death in the sacrament, we must show the Lord's life in the world.

"And the third great significance is the promise that it is a means of receiving divine

guidance. 'If a friend is one who summons us to our best, then is not Jesus Christ our best friend and should we not think of the sacrament as one of the chief appeals to us to be our best? The Lord's Supper looks not back to our past with a critical eye, but to our future with a helpful one.' " (President David O. McKay, C.R., October, 1929.)

LARGER WARDS INCREASE ATTENDANCE — Church News Section — December 26, 1953.—It is indeed refreshing to note the enthusiasm of some stake and ward leaders who have enthusiastically set out to reach the suggested 50 per cent. attendance at sacrament meeting. To them, it is a challenge that is definitely in the realm of possibility. There are now wards with a population in excess of 700 members that are beginning to realize the dream of having more than one half of the ward membership present at sacrament meeting each week.

It is also pleasing to learn that families throughout the Church are catching the spirit of this great spiritual project and it is already an established tradition, in many instances, for all members of the family to go to sacrament meeting together. This is exactly as it should be. Sacrament meeting is a family meeting designed for the benefit of young and old. Let us take advantage of the opportunity to build attendance at this meeting through appealing to each family for support.

TWENTY-EIGHT PER CENT. ATTENDANCE NEW RECORD — Church News Section — January 23, 1954.—Twenty-eight per cent. attendance at sacrament meeting was the Church average for the month of November in the organized stakes of the Church.

This is the best record for many years. To some, an increase of one per cent. may not seem to be much of an achievement, but in round numbers this represents about 9,000 more members in attendance at sacramental meetings.

It is no small accomplishment. With every ward and stake co-operating, these increases should come quite regularly.

STATISTICS—(continued)

1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Port Elizabeth.

CLARENCE ERIC KRULL was ordained an Elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood on February 18th, 1954, by Elder Lorin C. Godfrey at East London.

HENRY MELVIN JUBBER was ordained a

Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 18th, 1954, by Elder Allen L. Caldwell at East London.

FREDERICK RICHARD CLAUDE MATTHEWS was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on February 18th, 1954, by Elder Lorin C. Godfrey at East London.

PRAYER—(continued)

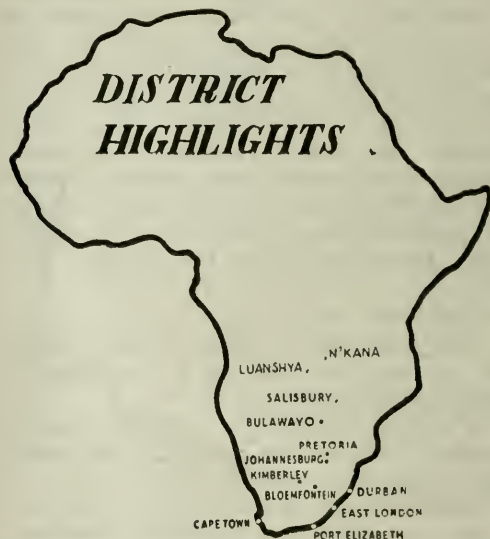
past the first principles. But I know how to pray, and I tell you no man knows himself until he has broken his heart before God on his knees and pleaded for his forgiveness. How I enjoy my friends who belong to Alcoholics Anonymous, men who have descended so low in degeneracy that as one of them has said, they have to look up to see the bottom of the gutter. But then they discover that there is a power beyond that can bring them help. In their meetings they always offer this prayer, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." But each one testifies that he has opened his heart to God, and that deep down in the recesses of that heart, which has almost been blackened by lives thrown away with reckless abandon, he has found a spark of divinity, and that divine within has reached up for the divine beyond, and then there has come a regeneration of his life, and he is led back to sobriety. But he continues to pray. That he must never cease doing. And I was talking to one of them recently who was a neighbour of mine during my childhood days right over here across the block, and he said to me, "You know, if I hadn't had the fortification of the prayers of my mother when I was a boy in that home, I am sure that even now my own prayers would not be heard. But I was fortified by that mother's prayers, and down through the years as I went astray, I could never divest from my mind the image of my mother upon her knees, with her children, and asking God to bless us. Now I have turned by life back to God," and he said, "I hope to live to see the day when I can be worthy to go where my mother is."

Some people think it is a sign of weakness to get upon one's knees and pray to our heavenly Father. It's the greatest sign of strength that exists. No men are greater than when they are upon their knees in communion with God and having a sacred interview with him. God does not always answer our prayers the way we want them answered, but if the channel is open, I testify to you that he answers them the way they should be answered, and those answers are for our best good and have an eternal and everlasting value.

My brethren in whose council I sit, I know you are men of God. I think of the Master when he said to his disciples, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and or-

dained you and set you apart." I thank you for your humility because in that humility you have been magnified. You have been called from the profession of the law; you have been called from the great field of education; you have been called from industry. You did not choose him, but he has chosen you and is sending you forth, and as you go forth to the stakes of Zion and the wards of the Church, you carry with you the power of the apostleship, the power of the priesthood of God our Father.

In humility I thank God for this association I have with you. God bless you, and bless us all, as we minister to the people, under the inspiration of God our Father, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**EAST LONDON BRANCH**

Branch President: Elder A. Lemoyne Caldwell,
4 Baynes Street, Berea, E.L.

Reported by Theodora Booyen.

Branch Conference was held on the 10th February and we were privileged to have President Duncan and Elder Clark in attendance. Fine talks were given by Sister Rona McGill, Elder Godfrey and Elder Clarke, who all gave us much food for thought. President Duncan then addressed us and amongst other things briefly outlined the Building Project of the S.A. Mission. Needless to say, he left us feeling greatly encouraged and filled with a desire to strive harder than ever before to attain our goal.

On the morning of the 7th, a small group of people gathered on the banks of the Nahoon River to witness the baptism of Brother and Sister Hamilton. Hearts were filled with thanksgiving for these fine people who have become members of the Kingdom of God. We were very sorry to learn though that we are to lose them to the Pretoria Branch where Brother Hamilton has been transferred.

The East London Branch is really showing fine progress now as is evident by the fact that Primary has also been started. Sister Corrigan has been appointed Primary Mother and is certainly well equipped for the position. In fact she has wonderful teaching ability, teaching having been her profession, a way with children and musical talent. No wonder the children are loving every minute of their primary.

Sister Grant from Queenstown paid us a flying visit so that she could attend conference, but she was unfortunately not able to spend much time with us. It was, however, nice to see her again.

BENONI NEWS

Reported by Maud Taggart

After the holidays things have been rather quiet but we are now back at our usual activities.

Primary opened at the beginning of February and we are pleased to welcome a few new members.

The Benoni Relief Society has been organised. We had our first meeting in the middle of February. Sister Low, President of Springs Branch Relief Society, has been very helpful to us and we appreciate her assistance.

Saturday, the 20th, Sister Charlton gave a dinner and the proceeds of which are to be handed to Springs Building Fund. This function was well patronised and we must congratulate Sister Charlton for a pleasant evening.

PRETORIA BRANCH

Branch President: Lionel Bibb,
282 Preller St., Muckleneuk, Pretoria.

Reported by Sheila Bibb

We are very happy to welcome to Pretoria, Anna-Metta Rohde who weighed in at seven pounds on the 1st of February. Fond parents are Hans and Tove Rohde.

We were also pleased to have as visitors to some of our meetings, Brother and Sister Seeman and family, and also Brother and Sister Wrench and family. Both of the Ramah Branch.

We are sorry to have to say good-bye to Elder Jenkins who has been transferred to Johannesburg. We welcome Elder Francis and hope that he will enjoy his stay here.

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Branch President: Clarence Doller,
18 Caithness Road, Walmer, P.E.

Reported by Madge McHugh

It was very disappointing that none of our members were able to get down to Cape Town when President McKay was there. Brother Everton and his family ran into a cow this side of Mossel Bay and had to spend the night in the veld. The Doller family with their crock!! got as near to Knysna as possible when it was decided to stop, so they also spent the night in the veld.

We welcome Elders Mercer and Lindsay who are to labour in Uitenhage. We wish them lots of luck and we hope and pray that many doors will be opened to them to hear the wonderful message that they have. We also welcome Elder Elliott to Port Elizabeth.

We regret to learn of the passing away of Edward Kozak, son of Brother Joe Kozak, in England. We extend our deepest sympathy to Brother Joe and his family.

We welcome Sister Doreen Warren into the Church, who was baptized in Cape Town.

Our Semi-Annual Conference was held on Sunday 14th, at which President Duncan presided. It was good to see such a good turnout at both services. Elder Clarke arrived to take Elder Weinheimer's place, as Elder Weinheimer is leaving to go back to his home in Canada. We wish him a pleasant and safe journey.

Sister Doller's health has gone down a lot this last week, and we hope and pray to hear of an improvement.

BULAWAYO BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Byron Y. Low,
72 Park Road, Suburbs, Bulawayo.

Reported by W. A. Jubber, Jnr.

It has been some months since the Bulawayo Branch last sent any news of the Branch and its activities.

We were sorry to have Elder Olson leave the Bulawayo Branch, on account of his illness, but at the same time we would like to say how glad we are to receive the services of Elder Low, and we hope that he will enjoy his stay here in Bulawayo.

Brother Alfred Frost has now been appointed Sunday School Superintendent, and we wish him continued success and pledge our faithful support.

The Relief Society Sisters are few in numbers but they faithfully hold their meetings every Wednesday evening. Sister J. C. Jubber is the Relief Society President, with Sister J. Frost as First Counsellor and Sister Jones as Secretary.

DURBAN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder John F. Grismore,
21 Bulwer Road, Durban.

Reported by Joyce Wahlburn

We regret that we were unable to say cheerio to Elder Low, and sincerely wish him every success in his new calling.

It certainly is a pleasure to have Elder Grismore back with us again, this time as our Branch President.

We would like to welcome Elder Faux and hope that his stay here will be a happy one.

All sessions of our Conference, held on the 7th of February, were most inspiring, and well attended. President Duncan was in attendance and it was, as ever, a much-looked-forward-to privilege for us to hear him speak. Early on Conference morning, President Duncan attended the baptism of Brother and Sister Gert Kotze, and Schenck Van Niekerk, at Tiger Rocks.

Sunday the 14th February was a happy and memorable day for our Branch, particularly for Brothers Henning, Randall, R. Fagan, Van Rooyen, Morison, and Doller, for to them was given the powers of the Priesthood. Our hearts are full of joy and humility at this great blessing which had come to our Branch.

The Sacrament Service on the 14th was under the supervision of the M.I.A., and their programme was an excellent one. Sister Nora Newell conducted, and the speakers were Brother Gert Kotze, and Sister Van Niekerk. Poems were read by Sister Lavina Bosse and Sister J. Wahlburn. Sister Denise Hellon rendered a piano solo, and the song by the Elders Sextet was a pleasure to listen to.

We have had more than our fair share of visitors of late. Elder Clarke passed through with President Duncan en route to P.E., and Elders Olsen, Sherman and Bundy paid a brief visit, too. After a holiday at Margate, Sister Rio Vice and Cheryl Dawn, spent a week-end here, before flying back to Johannesburg. Brother and Sister Dick Jakins and Mellen, of Margate, brought Sister Vice to Durban, and attended a Sunday School Service here before

returning home. Brother Ronnie Duncan of Springs is on transfer to Mandeni, and manages to slip down for services occasionally.

LUANSHYA BRANCH

Branch President: Douglas Charsley,
130 "E" Avenue, Luanshya.

Reported by Jeanne Charsley

All our members are now back from holiday except for Sister Aletta Terblanche who is visiting her aged parents who have been very ill recently.

We were very thrilled to hear the accounts of the visit of President McKay by the elders and Brother Ernest Terblanche and Sister Georgina Spear who had the good fortune to go down South to meet him.

Michael Barker, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Bazil Barker was blessed by Elder Donald Cole on February 14th, 1954.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Alwin Hubert,
129 Beach Road, Mouille Point.

Reported by Beatrice E. Smith

The M.I.A. held a watermelon bust at Rhodes Memorial on the last Tuesday in January. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and felt the feed was well worth the climb.

There has been quite a lot of sickness in the Branch this month. Brother Hubert, Sr., and Sister Myers have both had operations. Sister Clarissa Bibb was just recently released from the hospital and Mr. Jim Hyland, husband of Sister Amy Hyland, is still in the hospital. Sister Pirie has also been seriously ill. We pray that the Lord will soon restore all of these fine people to a state of good health.

On the 31st January, the new Officers and Teachers of the Branch were presented and sustained. We feel sure that they will all fill their offices with enthusiasm and do the tasks that have been given to them with a fine sense of responsibility.

M.I.A. commenced their new year with an evening spent in a strenuous game of volleyball. Delicious refreshments were served to the tired but well satisfied participants.

The Relief Society opened their year with a very well attended social. We pray the spirit of enthusiasm may continue and that the Relief Society will go on from strength to strength this year.

On February 5th, the Primary opened with a very jolly party. Though Primary membership may be small in numbers, it makes up for that in its wonderful spirit.

A braaivleis was held at the farm of Brother Eric Jakins on the 13th. Delicious meats were served, and then came the serving of the hot mealies, followed by watermelon. The time was then handed over to Elder Everton, who soon had the entire group singing merry old songs. This was really an enjoyable and successful venture and we have to thank the Branch Presidency and Sister Edith Wiid who were the instigators of the evening's activity.

Sister Helene van Schalkwyk has had to undergo an operation for appendicitis. We are pleased to report that she is now quite her own, cheerful self again.

We are very glad to have Brother Hubert, Sr., with us again, and feel sure that he is also glad to have left the hospital.

Three sessions of Branch Conference were held on the 21st of February. At the first session, we were given instructions on the tasks and duties of the Officers and Teachers. At the second session, we were privileged to hear from a representative in each of the Branch Auxiliaries. This was a most instructive meeting, as we were thus enabled to learn something of what each organization is doing to build up the Kingdom of God. The musical items presented were a song by the Junior Sunday School and a trio composed of Sisters LaVerne Park, Vonnice Ninow and Imelda Fourie.

At the evening session, there were two numbers by the choir, and then we had the joy of hearing from Brother Alwin Hubert, who was followed by Sister Duncan then President Duncan. Their words of counsel will long be remembered.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Branch President: H. Hugo,
51 Athlone Avenue, Strubenvale, Springs.

Reported by Mavis E. Louw

A crowd of 71 people turned up at the watermelon bust organized by the Sunday School. Members from Ramah and Benoni were amongst those who gathered at the home of Brother and Sister Louw and then went for a swim in the Daggafontein Mine Swimming pool. Then we all had a real feast of watermelon. When all the folks had their fill and settled down, they were confronted with delicious hot dogs which were sold to swell the building fund.

We were happy to have President Duncan visit us on Sunday morning the 30th January, accompanied by Elder Mayo, our new Supervising Elder.

Our best wishes and congratulations to the members who have been called into office for the new year by the new Branch Presidency. We can't mention them all here so we will just make mention of the heads of the Auxiliaries, which are as follows: Sunday School Superintendent, Brother Troskie; Relief Society President, Sister Salome Campbell; Y.M.M.I.A., Brother Ronnie Duncan; Y.W.M.I.A., Sister Shirley Beveridge, and Primary Mother, Sister Phyllis Armstrong.

We are sorry to have had to say a temporary farewell to Brother Ronnie Duncan, who has gone to relieve someone who works for a branch of his firm at the coast. We hope Ronnie enjoys his stay and will return fit and well.

The sisters are responding very well to the request of the building fund chairman to hold home dinners in aid of the Springs Building Fund. Sister Judith Atkins and Sister Charlton have had very successful and most enjoyable dinners, and there are many more to come by reports coming in.

Although many sisters were handicapped with illness this month a very successful cake sale was held, those who could, doing just a little more.

We regret to report the serious illness of Sister Olive Jubber, daughter of Brother and Sister E. L. Futter of Springs. The united prayers of the members of the mission will be greatly appreciated.

RAMAH BRANCH

Branch President: Norman G. Muir,
119 Kitchener Ave, Bez. Valley, Johannesburg

Reported by Mary Millan Stark

This branch has been doubly blessed recently by having President and Sister McKay and President Reiser again pass through Johannesburg, when they departed from South Africa enroute to South America.

After the stimulating experience of having the President of the Church in our midst the message and advice brought to us by President Duncan and Elder Mayo helped to point out the way for this new spiritual awareness to be channelled into good works. President Duncan especially urged the Saints to concentrate on the Building Fund.

All the members have regretted having to say farewell to Sister Margaret Kelly, former M.I.A. President, who has returned to Edinburgh, Elder Clark, Elder Sherman, Elder Olsen and Elder Bundy. They in turn expressed their personal sorrow at having to

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

leave South Africa, to return to their homes.

The M.I.A. has given great promise of a grand year of good work judging from the auspicious start made in January. The members have been entertained at a musical quiz, a swimming party, a braai and watermelon bust at the Stark's home, a general quiz and dancing. With Norma Ninow as Ladies' President and Signe Smith and Evanine Stark as Counsellors they co-operated with the Men's Presidency to organize a successful and enjoyable St. Valentine's Dance, where the theme paid tribute very artistically to the patron saint of lovers.

The Relief Society launched its year's activities by entertaining members to a party when a "Stork Shower" was provided by Erma Rutherford.

The Primary Association, under the able direction of Sister Macadams, Sister Donly

and Sister Wrench, have aroused the interest of the young people already. Doreen Roston is now a teacher and two of the Honour Bee Girls of M.I.A., Joy Macadams and Grace Stark, are helping in the capacity of Secretary and teacher respectively.

Congratulations to Roy and Erma Rutherford on the birth of a bonny daughter, which gives our lucky Branch President another grandchild.

Congratulations also to Sister Minnie (Louw) Hutton on the birth of a son who was born while President McKay was addressing Transvaal District Conference and who will be named David.

The Ramah Saints are showing an increased interest in Genealogical Work as of late, and with Ivan Muir, Nita Crighton, Harry Sharp as officers and Miriam Reckas as Secretary the work will continue at a great pace.

"CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY"

by Hilma T. Brinkerhoff

"... choose you this day whom ye will serve"
With wisdom counting, but never swerve
From that which you believe is right;
Remember always, "right is might."
Choose you this day to whom you'll kneel
On bended knee; and as you feel
Thanksgiving, return that thanks to Him who
gives
His light and truth to all who live.
And as we're choosing, some will say,
"Forget tomorrow, live high today."
Will we be weak or fail to plan
For that higher sphere God laid for man?
Then choose this day whom you will serve;
Satan's plan with evil stirred
Or Christ's own way, the righteous word,
But as for me I'll serve the Lord.

MISSIONARY THEME FOR 1954.

"I WILL NOT DISAPPOINT
THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH
IN ME."

THE SIN OF OMISSION

by Margaret E. Sangster

It isn't the thing you do,
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you a bit of a heartache,
At the setting of the sun.

The tender word forgotten,
The letter you did not write,
The flower you might have sent,
Are your haunting ghosts tonight.

The stone you might have lifted,
Out of a brother's way,
The bit of heartsome counsel,
You were hurried too much to say.

The loving touch of the hand,
The gentle and winsome tone,
That you had no time or thought for,
With troubles enough of your own.

The little acts of kindness,
So easily out of mind,
Those chances to be helpful,
Which everyone may find.

No it's not the thing you do,
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you the bit of heartache,
At the setting of the sun.